

My sister, Peggy and husband, Jeff bought a camper that hooked up to the back of their car. They had four small boys who were always eager to be outdoors and a camper seemed like a good fit for the family. The first thing Jeff did was set the camper up in the front yard. They boys were beyond excited.

"Dad, can we sleep in it tonight?" Tony, the oldest of the four asked.

"Well, now son we will have to see about that" was his reply.

"Of course we can." Peggy excitedly responded. "It will be so much fun."

The boys couldn't believe their good luck. A new camper and a camp out right in their own front yard.

Meanwhile six houses down plans were being made to shall we say interrupt this little outdoor adventure. You see I lived six doors away. At the time I was married with four step children who happened to be at our house that night. I explained to them what our plan was going to be.

"Ok Kids, after dark we are going to sneak up them and scare them. Not too much, just a little bit." I told them.

"How are we going to scare them?" Patty the second oldest and most adventurous of the crew asked.

"Hmmm....maybe we will throw a couple of balls on the roof." I replied. "But first we must get ourselves ready. We all need to wear dark clothes so they don't see us."

The kids ran upstairs to start picking out their outfits for the rendezvous. Meanwhile hubby and I started finding objects that we could lob through the air and make a noise but do no damage. Soon enough night was upon us. We left the house with each person carrying their weapon. We were all laughing and enjoying ourselves until we got two houses away. Then the signal was given. Dad lifted his hand and put up the stop sign at the same time held one finger over his mouth - the universal sign for silence.

Then he whispered "OK from here on out if you have to talk you must whisper. Once we get to the next house we all get down on the ground and crawl on our bellies until we get to the bushes next to the driveway. Then when I point to you - launch your ball. Try to hit the roof."

We did as directed and made it to the bushes next to the driveway without any notice. The first launch hit the roof.

"Dad, what was that noise?" One of the boys asked.

"Oh it was just an acorn hitting the roof of the camper, just to go to sleep." Was his reply.

The next launch came quickly after that.

"Holy cow Dad - are you sure those are acorns? I'm scared. Mom, can I sleep next to you?" We heard someone saying.

Peggy replied rather quickly "Yes, of course come on over here."

By now we were having a hard time keeping quiet but we managed. Now it was time for the third air bomb to go off. After the deed had been done we heard in a voice filled with anxiety "Dad, I am really scared - can you go get the dog? He will protect us!"

"Now damnit boys there is nothing to be afraid of. We are in our own front yard. Just settle down and go to sleep." Jeff answered with a bit of an edge to his voice.

Time for launch number 4, but before we could get it into the air we heard

"I can't go to sleep. I am scared. I don't think I like camping. Can we just go inside? I think someone is going to get us."

"No one is trying to get us!" Jeff roared. "Settle down and go to sleep."

With that Peggy said, "Jeff, I'm a little bit scared myself. I think I would feel better if we all just went inside to our own beds."

"YES" four little voices replied in unison.

Within seconds the door to the camper flew open and four small boys and their Mom stumbled out and raced to the front door.